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9 August 1960

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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DAILY BRIEF

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III. THE WEST

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Brazil-Cuba-US: President Kubitschek's desire to pry
"massive support" from the United States for his Latin

JK

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[American economic development plan, "Operation Pan America," is resulting in a cautious and neutralist Brazilian approach to the Cuban problem and a tolerance for Cuban and pro-Communist activities in Brazil. Kubitschek's policy is based on the views of his key foreign policy adviser, Frederico Schmidt.]

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LATE ITEMS

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*Laos: The second parachute battalion under Captain Kong Le on 8 August seized control of Vientiane and a nearby army base in a sudden and unexpected action. The takeover was seemingly carried out unilaterally by Kong Le, although it may have had the secret backing of certain high-ranking army officers disgruntled over the meteoric rise to preeminence of Defense Minister General Phoumi. The objectives of the takeover are as yet unclear; however, a leaflet signed by the "revolutionary committee" exhorts

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DAILY BRIEF

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"Lao patriots to... chase the government out that demands money from the great powers," suggesting that the revolutionaries may at the least seek a more neutralist alignment.

It is still too early to determine whether the revolutionaries can make their takeover hold up. Phoumi, however, suffers a serious disadvantage in that the troops at his disposal for counteraction are widely dispersed throughout the country.

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Brazil Relates Cuban Problem to US Aid for Economic Development

The dominant group of Brazilian officials concerned with foreign policy, including President Kubitschek and his chief adviser, Augusto Frederico Schmidt, favors a cautious neutral approach to the Cuban problem, in contrast to Brazil's past policy of marshaling support for the US at inter-American meetings. This group, spearheaded by Schmidt, sees in this approach a way to pry "massive support" from the US for Kubitschek's plan for Latin American economic development, "Operation Pan America" (OPA), which he regards as essential to hemisphere security.

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A minority group in the Foreign Ministry, including Foreign Minister Lafer and Political Chief Pio Correa, advocates a "hard line" on Cuba, but this is rejected by Schmidt

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Kubitschek almost fired Pio Correa for putting special restrictions on the issuance of visas to Cuban nationals, and he rescinded the restrictions immediately.

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The American Embassy in Rio de Janeiro believes that at the forthcoming meeting of foreign ministers in Costa Rica, Brazil will probably tend to withhold full cooperation on the Cuban issue unless it receives quid pro quo on OPA or unless other Latin American nations provide substantial unreserved support for US viewpoints.

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